

FY23-FY24 Culturally Specific Victim Services Grant Recipient Funding Awards

August 1, 2022-June 30, 2024

BERKSHIRE RESOURCES FOR INTEGRATION OF DIVERSE GROUPS THROUGH EDUCATION (BRIDGE) - \$400,000



Founded in 2007, the Berkshire Resources for Integration of Diverse Groups Through Education (BRIDGE) is a minority- and women-run non-profit. The BRIDGE's mission is "promoting mutual understanding and

respect among diverse groups serving as a resource to both local institutions and the community at large." They serve African American, African Latino, Asian, and Indigneous/Native American victims in Berkshire County. The crime types they primarily serve are assault, family violence, gender-based violence, sexual assault, bullying, and harassment.

Website: www.multiculturalbridge.org

ENLACE DE FAMILIAS - \$832,657



Enlace de Familias serves the downtown area of Holyoke, which is predominantly Hispanic and includes the largest Puerto Rican community outside the island. 98% of the 350 families served by Enlace annually are Hispanic. Enlace is a critical, grassroots information, service, and community-

building hub. Their mission is to develop, lead, and promote organizing in Holyoke. They aim to train the residents of Holyoke, especially in the lowest income neighborhoods, to be the central and guiding force in the transformation of school reform and other policies and challenges that have an impact on them and their families. Most community members served by Enlace have experienced some type of violence, and often multiple types of violence. Enlace's program Nuevo Camino aims to focus specifically on those who have experienced physical, financial, or emotional harm as the result of crimes.

Website: www.enlacedefamilias.org

■ FAMILIES AGAINST VIOLENCE - \$500,000



Families Against Violence serves the Black American community and other communities of color in Hampden County. They provide services and resources with compassion and care to families and individuals whose lives are impacted by violence, violent crimes, and sudden death. Their services include counseling, referrals, advocacy, peer support, crisis support, outreach, and culturally specific/culturally sensitive support. Families Against Violence has focused on bridging the gap in services by offering a myriad of Black-, African American-, and PoC-friendly services to families and individuals who have fallen victim of violent crimes, including crimes that have resulted in death.

Families Against Violence focuses its efforts on supporting people of color, not as an exclusion but as an effort of inclusion. To some, Families Against Violence is thought of as an extended family because of its family-oriented supportive services and family-style support groups and efforts.

■ MOTHERS OVERLOOKED, REACHING OUT AND EMPOWERMENT (MORE) - \$260,000

MORE's mission is to empower families of gun violence, work on achieving justice for survivors, and fight for the core values of gun violence prevention. MORE serves BIPOC Springfield residents. Their programming focuses on homicide, gun violence, and missing persons.

■ PARENT VILLAGES - \$396,646



Parent Villages' mission is to build a bridge between parents, youth, advocates, community leaders, and educators to close the opportunity gap and improve the quality of education and lives of all children, specifically targeting and addressing the growing needs of the Black and Hispanic communities of

Greater Springfield and surrounding communities. They primarily serve victims of various forms of assault and violence, including bullying/harassment, family violence, and sexual assault. Parent Villages partners with other organizations to provide two-generational approach programming to serve the whole family, inclusive of children and their caregivers/parents. This approach enables them to provide support to both children and adults to close the opportunity and belief gaps, which have negatively impacted the educational attainment, financial situation, and livelihoods of these families. The old adage "It still takes a village" is more than a saying to Parent Villages' board, staff, and volunteers. Every effort they make in this work is done with strategy, passion, and love. No one should suffer alone or in silence, and Parent Villages works to make sure they know that they do not have to.

Website: www.parentvillages.org